

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Summary Minutes

February 20, 2003

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Steve Foley (WDFW), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Eric Warner (Muckleshoot Tribe)

Other Participants: Tom Quinn (UW), Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Karl Burton (SPU), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I) Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:25 AM.

II) Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the agenda following a minor change requested by Steve Foley.

III) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Adult sockeye entry timing and distribution proposal update by Tom Quinn

Bruce informed the committee that Tom Quinn was present to update members on the project design for evaluating sockeye entry timing and distribution into Lake Washington and its tributaries. He reminded members that at the November 2002 AFC meeting members voiced their support for the project, so Tom continued to fine-tune the proposal and project.

Tom explained the project would use three different tagging methods: disk tags, ibutton data storage tags, and ultrasonic transmitters, to better understand the relationships between the timing of lake entry by sockeye, their movements in the lake, and the timing and location of spawning. The tags for the project need to be ordered as soon as possible so they will be ready for fieldwork in June. Also, the university is currently funding a graduate student that will work on the project in 2003 and these costs are not reflected in the proposal. If the project is put off until 2004 the labor costs will increase because the student will not be funded. Paul from SPU would be ordering the tags.

Motion: Frank moved and Bill seconded to recommend funding the proposal adult sockeye entry timing and distribution by Tom Quinn and Jenny Newell (UW), by using funding that was originally allocated in the HCP for sockeye genetics study. The motion passed unanimously.

IV) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Party decision on steelhead genetics proposal

Bruce briefed members on the Parties to the LMA decision to approve funding the collection of DNA samples in 2003 for \$36,000 and requested that further discussion occur prior to the approval of additional funding for the project. Further discussion on sample sizes and application of the results is expected. Bruce noted that Paul had developed an agreement between the City of Seattle and WDFW for the study and it was under review by WDFW. Chuck noted that the agreement between SPU and WDFW needed some fine-tuning and Paul had provided WDFW with some options to resolve the Department's questions regarding indirect charges.

Review proposals for evaluation of fish recolonization above Landsburg Dam

Bruce briefed members on the efforts by SPU, NMFS, and the UW, in consultation with WDFW, to develop a proposal to evaluate fish recolonization above the Landsburg Dam. He explained the proposal would evaluate anadromous fish passing above the Landsburg Dam, their spawning distribution, and the downstream passage of juveniles through the protective fish screen at the water supply intake. The first year funding request supporting the proposal was largely geared towards investing in equipment and adding to the fish passage facility. He then asked Paul Faulds, Tom Quinn, and Karl Burton, to explain the elements of the proposal.

Motion: Frank made a motion to approve the proposal as provided and Sam seconded. Steve voiced concerns with the purchase of telemetry equipment to evaluate coho spawning above Landsburg. The question was called and the committee voted to terminate discussion and vote. The motion to approve the funding proposal was approved with one dissenting vote (WDFW).

V) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program (continued)

Predator abundance in Lake Washington pre-proposal (PI: Beauchamp)

Bruce reported that at a previous AFC meeting the committee had recommended using zooplankton data collected by Dan Schindler (UW) as a surrogate for more intensive zooplankton surveys funded in the HCP. As a result there is approximately \$45,000 available for additional sockeye monitoring and research for 2003 that could be used for other sockeye research. He noted that Dave Beauchamp had provided members with a pre-proposal for evaluating predator abundance in Lake Washington. Dave's proposal was provided to the AFC about the same time as the WDFW began discussions to address cutthroat in the Lake Washington basin. Bruce queried members for their interest in future discussions concerning discussion of research on the abundance of cutthroat in Lake Washington. The group consensus was that enough was known about cutthroat as a predator in the lake and that further research was not needed at this time.

Fall hydroacoustic-midwater trawl survey for assessing the abundance of sockeye salmon presmolts

Bruce asked members to consider the value of juvenile sockeye surveys and consider if funding should be continued for this work in the fall of 2003.

VI) Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

There were no members of the public present and no public comments.

VII) Information and discussion items

Hatchery EIS update

Bruce noted the FEIS would be out in the middle of March. The City is also talking with King County DDES concerning the water supply permits for the new hatchery.

Cedar River chinook and sockeye counts – WDFW

Steve reported there were no new counts for chinook or sockeye.

Hatchery Update - WDFW

Chuck reported there was a suspected IHN breakout at hatchery. He said on Monday Joan Thomas would have the results from the lab tests.

Statistical review of the adult sockeye sampling program (final)

Bruce updated members on the final report by John Skalski. He asked Paul to email members copies of the report.

VIII) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.